

Message Text

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65-60

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2128

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1500

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL/LABOR UNREST AT GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION

REF: LISBON 3277, AUG 2, 1974

SUMMARY: WORKERS AT THE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION SEEM LIKELY TO
OBTAIN INCREASING POLICY CONTROL OF PORTUGAL'S PRE-EMINENT
CULTURAL FOUNDATION. END SUMMARY.

1. PORTUGAL'S GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION, MUNIFICENTLY ENDOWED
BY THE OIL FORTUNE OF THE LAST CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN, IS WIDELY
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KNOWN FOR ITS GENEROUS SUPPORT OF CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC

ACTIVITIES. WORKERS OF THE FOUNDATION HAD PREVIOUSLY FORCED THE REASSIGNMENT OF TWO OR THE ORGANIZATION'S SEVEN ADMINISTRATORS IN AUGUST 1974 (REFTEL).

2. WORKERS VOTED BY SHOW OF HANDS ON MARCH 14 TO PURGE (SANEAR) FOUNDATION'S EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR, DR. LUIS GOMES MORENO. CHARGES AGAINST MORENO WERE BASED SOLELY ON HIS ROLE AS A FOUNDER AND CANDIDATE OF CDS PARTY. ONE OF THE ADMINISTRATORS REASSIGNED IN AUG 74, DR. VITOR SA MACHADO, WAS ALSO A CDS FOUNDER.

3. IN AN ACCOMPANYING RESOLUTION THE GULBENKIAN WORKERS UNANIMOUSLY CALLED FOR OUTLAWING THE CDS AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (PDC) PARTIES FOR THEIR PRESUMED ROLE IN THE ATTEMPTED COUP OF MARCH 11.

4. WORKERS ALSO CALLED FOR A REVISION OF FOUNDATION'S STATUTES TO GUARANTEE A "DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE" ADMINISTRATION. THEY PROPOSED A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, WHICH WOULD BE FORMED WITH COMMON CONSENT OF THE TRUSTEES, THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE FOUNDATION'S EMPLOYEES.

5. COMMENT: THE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION IS TO PORTUGAL'S CULTURAL LIFE WHAT THE BANKS ARE TO ITS ECONOMIC LIFE. THE FACT THAT THE FOUNDATION'S PRESIDENT, DR. JOSE DE AZERADO PERDIGAO, EARLIER YIELDED TO WORKER PRESSURE AND REASSIGNED TWO ADMINISTRATORS IS INDICATIVE OF THE POWER OF THE WORKERS. WHILE IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE WORKERS WILL GAIN CONTROL OVER THE FOUNDATION'S VAST ASSETS, IT SEEMS PROBABLY THAT THEY WILL HAVE A MUCH GREATER POLICY VOICE IN DETERMINING HOW THESE ASSETS WILL BE USED.

6. THE FOUNDATION'S ADMINISTRATORS ARE TO SOME DEGREE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION DUE TO THEIR PAST PATRONIZING AND HIGH-HANDED DEALINGS WITH THE EMPLOYEES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.
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